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ABSTRACT

These dropout and migration statistics were compiled during the first year of implementation of the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) dropout tracking and database system. These data were collected, primarily, to determine the number of students leaving the DCPS before graduation who did not re-enroll in another educational institution. However, the tracking procedures also permitted other migration statistics to be compiled. This report is the first attempt to provide annual statistics on student dropout and migration patterns based on annual tracking procedures. Statistics are presented in the forms of tables and graphs in these areas: (1) system-wide dropout rate; (2) dropouts by grade, race, and gender; (3) dropouts by ward; and (4) out-migration rates. The appendix, which comprises nearly half the document, includes a definition of "dropout," a list of the DCPS with secondary students, a list of public schools by ward, and dropout rates for a sample of urban and suburban school districts. (ABL)

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Dropout and Migration Statistics

District of Columbia Public Schools
School Year 1989-90

Franklin L. Smith
Superintendent of Schools
Chief State School Officer

July 1991

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**DROPOUT AND MIGRATION STATISTICS
District of Columbia Public Schools
School Year 1989-90**

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July 1991

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PREFACE

These dropout and migration statistics were compiled during the first year of implementation of the D.C. Public Schools (DCPS) dropout tracking and data-base system. These data were collected, primarily, to determine the number of students leaving DCPS before graduation who did not re-enroll in another educational institution (i.e., dropouts). However, the tracking procedures also permitted other migration statistics to be compiled. These procedures were devised and implemented using the Student Information Management System (SIMS) as well as manual data collection to identify and track DCPS student migration within and outside of the public school system. The data generated through SIMS were verified by all local schools participating in the process.

This report is the first attempt of DCPS to provide annual statistics on student dropout and migration patterns based on annual tracking procedures. The tracking procedures were developed and refined through DCPS participation in a dropout statistics field test conducted by the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES). The NCES field test was initiated to develop a consensus in dropout tracking and computational methods for all states reporting data to the NCES Common Core of Data. Up to now, DCPS has relied upon a formula adapted from the U.S. Department of Education to compute a longitudinal dropout rate. The formula simply subtracted the number of current graduates from their original 10th grade enrollment size three years earlier, reported as a percent. The difference was considered to be the dropout rate. The formula did not account for the out-migration of students, student retentions or student transfers to adult education programs. Consequently, the dropout rate was continually over estimated; thus, a more accurate accounting system was warranted.

In addition to compiling statistics on dropout and migration patterns, the new accounting procedure will permit demographic and biographical data to be compiled in a data-base of dropout students. This information will be used to monitor characteristics and behavioral patterns of dropouts for use in program development and will also be used as a resource in efforts to facilitate dropout re-entry.

The reliability of the statistics reported here, primarily, resulted from a series of manual procedures developed to supplement and verify the student withdrawal data retrieved from SIMS. SIMS data was, to varying degrees, found to be incomplete for biographical data. Therefore, matching of student files was hindered in some cases, and duplicate student records could not all be positively identified. Incomplete biographical data also

hindered the classification of some dropouts by race and gender. Continued improvements in data entry onto SIMS will permit SIMS data to be utilized with fewer verification procedures and will result in a more time-efficient dropout accounting process.

DCPS DROPOUT AND MIGRATION STATISTICS
School Year 1989-90
(Summary of Statistics)

System-wide Dropout Rate

The annual dropout rate for SY 1989-90 was determined to be 10.37% for secondary students. Of the 32,342 students enrolled in grades 7-12, 3,355 have been subsequently identified as dropouts. Nearly two-thirds (65.2%) of the dropouts left school during the regular academic year between October, 1989 (after the official membership count) and June, 1990, while one-third (34.7%) completed the regular year but failed to return by the following fall in October, 1991 (i.e., summer dropouts).

Slightly more than one-half (54.2%) of the dropouts voluntarily withdrew with notification to the school while all others left without explanation. Additionally, 45.0% of the voluntary withdrawals were believed by their home school to be inter-city transfers but these students never enrolled in the receiving school or any other DCPS school.

Dropouts by Grade, Race and Gender

More than two-thirds (67.9%) of the dropouts left school before completing grade 10. Black students represented 88.7% of the dropouts, and Hispanics represented the second highest percentage at 7.6%. Asian, Indian and White students together comprised 2.6% of the dropouts. Proportionately, based on their individual race membership totals, Hispanic students showed the highest dropout rate of 16.4%, and Asian and Indian students showed the next highest rates of 12.3% and 13.3% respectively. Slightly more than one-half (53.4%) of all dropouts were males and 46.6% were females.

Dropouts by Ward

Dropout statistics by city ward showed the largest number of dropouts (n=913) were from Ward 5, followed by Ward 1 (n=519). The lowest number of dropouts were from Wards 2 and 3 (n=88 and n=209 respectively). However, proportionally based on the individual ward membership total, Ward 1 had the highest dropout rate (18.2%) followed by Ward 5 (13.6%).

Out-migration Rates

The system-wide out-migration rate (i.e., out-of-city transfers) was 2.7%. Out-migration rates by ward ranged from 1.2% to 3.9%, with four out of eight wards showing rates above the system-wide rate.

D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS LEAVER STATISTICS
SY 1989-90
(Secondary Students Only)

ATTRITION

a/ TOTAL FALL '89 MEMBERSHIP	32,342
b/ CONTINUED COHORT MEMBERSHIP - FALL '90	-24,289
DCPS Leavers (attrition)	8,053 (24.8%)

SCHOOL LEAVERS COUNTED

c/ Graduates	3,635
d/ Transfers:	
out-of-city (out-migration)	887 (2.7%)
private school	62
DCPS Adult Educ. Ctr.	59
e/ Court Ordered Withdrawals	99
Deaths or Serious Illnesses	33
f/ Dropouts:	3,355
g/ voluntary withdrawals (1,819)	
left without explanation (1,463)	
h/ not attending but not withdrawn (73)	
TOTAL LEAVERS COUNTED	8,130

i/	<u>Unaccounted Students</u>	
	school leavers counted	8,130
	attrition	-8,053
		+77 (0.9%)

SY 1989-90

Dropout Rate

$$\frac{3355}{32342} = 0.1037 \times 100 = 10.37\%$$

- a/ based on validated Fall 1989 enrollment for secondary students (n=31,729), plus late student entrants (n=613)
- b/ continued enrollment of Fall 1989 cohort in Fall 1990; Fall '90 students in grades 8-12 (n=24,293), minus new 8-12 grade entrants into school system (n=363), plus Fall '89 cohort retained in grade 7 (n=359)
- c/ includes Spring and Summer '90 graduates
- d/ students transferring to DCPS adult education centers are not counted in DCPS membership totals and are, therefore, considered to be DCPS leavers; students transferring to DCPS alternative education programs are not considered to be school leavers (n=126)
- e/ includes juvenile offenders sentenced to Oak Hill and Cedar Knolls detention centers
- f/ dropouts include secondary students withdrawn from all regular academic, alternative and special education programs
- g/ students left after giving some type of notification; 817 of these students withdrew with the explanation of transferring to another D.C. Public School but did not follow through (i.e., dropped out)
- h/ students absent 45 or more consecutive school days are automatically classified as dropouts based on the "dropout definition" adopted by the DCPS Board of Education in May, 1986 (see Appendix)
- i/ due to duplicate student records, school leavers "counted" exceeded actual "attrition"; incomplete biographical records as well as manual data collection procedures did not permit the complete identification of duplicate student withdrawals

DCPS SYSTEM-WIDE DROPOUT STATISTICS
SY 1989-90
(Secondary Students Only)

<u>DROPOUTS</u>	<u>Total Number</u>	<u>j/ Percent of Demographic Membership</u>	<u>Percent of Total Dropouts</u>
<u>Overall</u>	3355		
<u>Race</u>			
Asian	44	12.32	1.31
Black	2970	10.02	88.70
Hispanic	257	16.46	7.66
Indian	2	13.33	0.06
White	43	6.15	1.28
Unidentified	33	N/A <u>k/</u>	0.98
<u>l/ Sex</u>			
Male	1793	11.32	53.44
Female	1510	9.15	45.01
Unidentified	52	N/A <u>m/</u>	1.55
<u>n/ Grade</u>			
Ungraded	241	11.95	7.18
07	215	3.71	6.41
08	316	5.98	9.42
09	434	8.64	12.94
10	1075	18.32	32.04
11	718	15.76	21.40
12	356	9.38	10.61
<u>Un, 7-12</u>	<u>3355</u>	<u>10.37</u>	<u>100.00</u>
7-9	965	5.99	28.76
9-12	2583	13.42	76.98
10-12	2149	15.11	64.05
<u>Withdrawal Period</u>			
Fall-Spring	2190	6.77	65.28
Summer	1165	3.60	34.72
<u>Withdrawal Reason</u>			
<u>Voluntary</u>			
Withdrawal	1819	5.62	54.22
No Explanation	1463	4.52	43.60
<u>o/ Absent but</u>			
Not Withdrawn	73	0.23	2.18

Note: Percent of total dropouts by race equal to 99.99 due to rounding fluctuations

- j/ dropouts as a percentage of their respective race, sex, grade, etc. membership
- k/ not available; incomplete biographical records prevented the classification of 33 dropouts by race
- l/ Fall '89 secondary male membership = 15,833; secondary female membership = 16,509
- m/ not available; incomplete biographical records prevented the classification of 52 dropouts by sex
- n/ ungraded students include special education students who did not have a grade specification in their regular academic school or special education center, and students who were unclassified due to their participation in the English as a Second Language (ESL) Program, Spingarn S.T.A.Y and Ballou S.T.A.Y. alternative programs
- o/ absent 45 or more consecutive school days (i.e., dropout by definition) but remaining on school membership roster

FIGURE 1

PERCENT OF STUDENT LEAVERS
FROM SECONDARY MEMBERSHIP
(N=32,342)

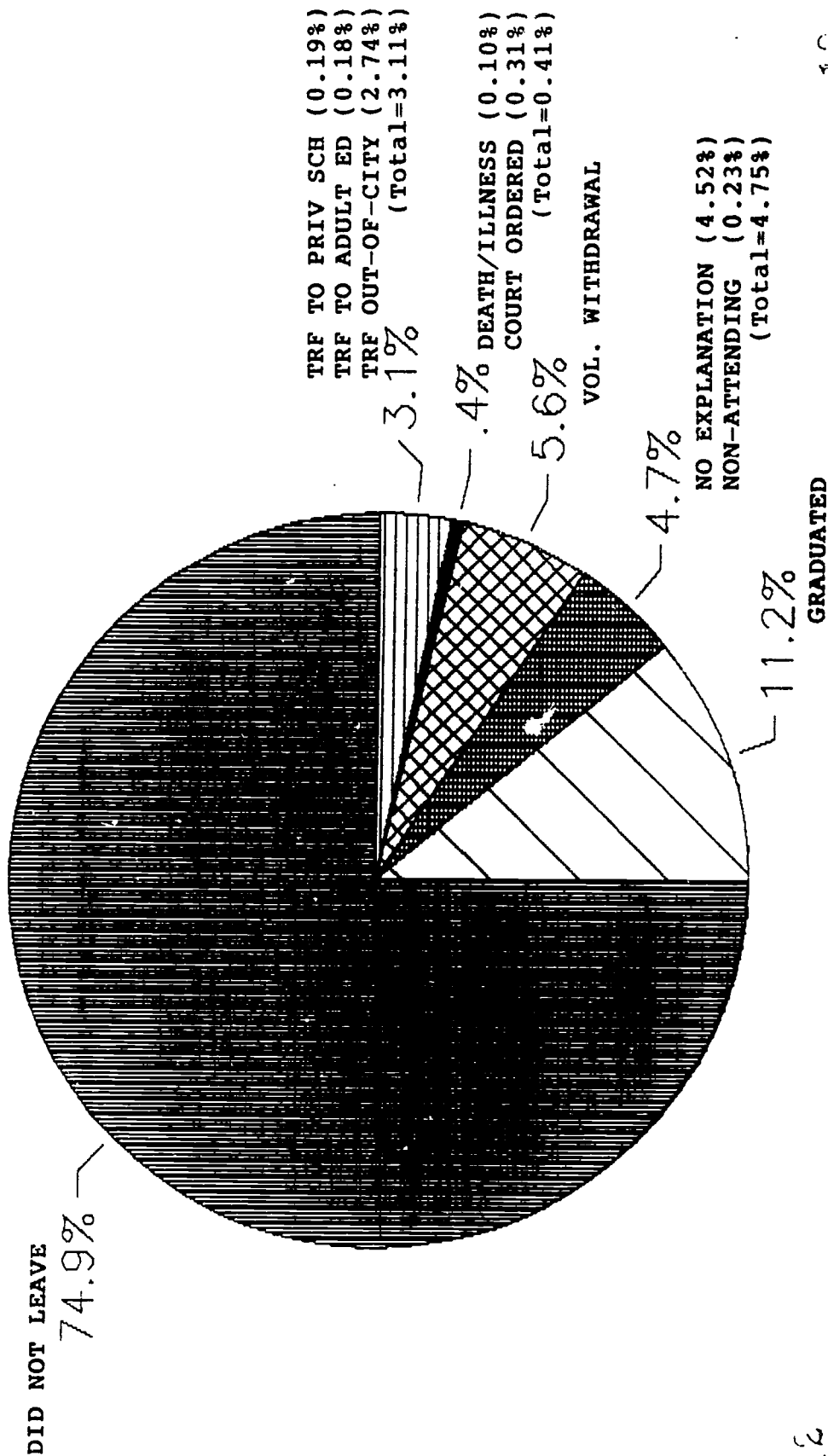


FIGURE 2
PERCENT OF DROPOUTS
FROM GRADE MEMBERSHIP
 (n = respective grade membership)

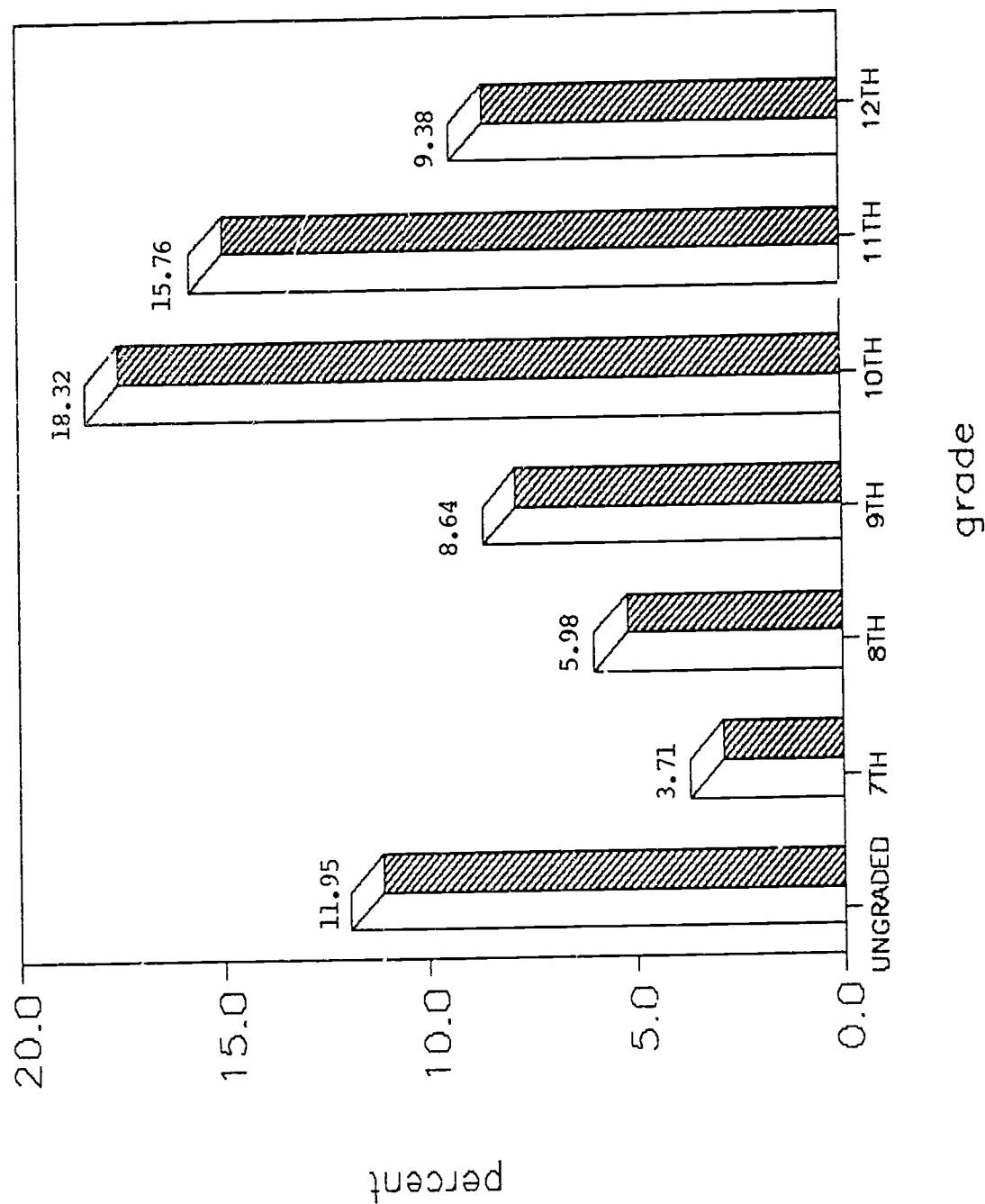


FIGURE 3
PERCENT OF DROPOUTS
FROM RACE MEMBERSHIP
 (n = respective race membership)

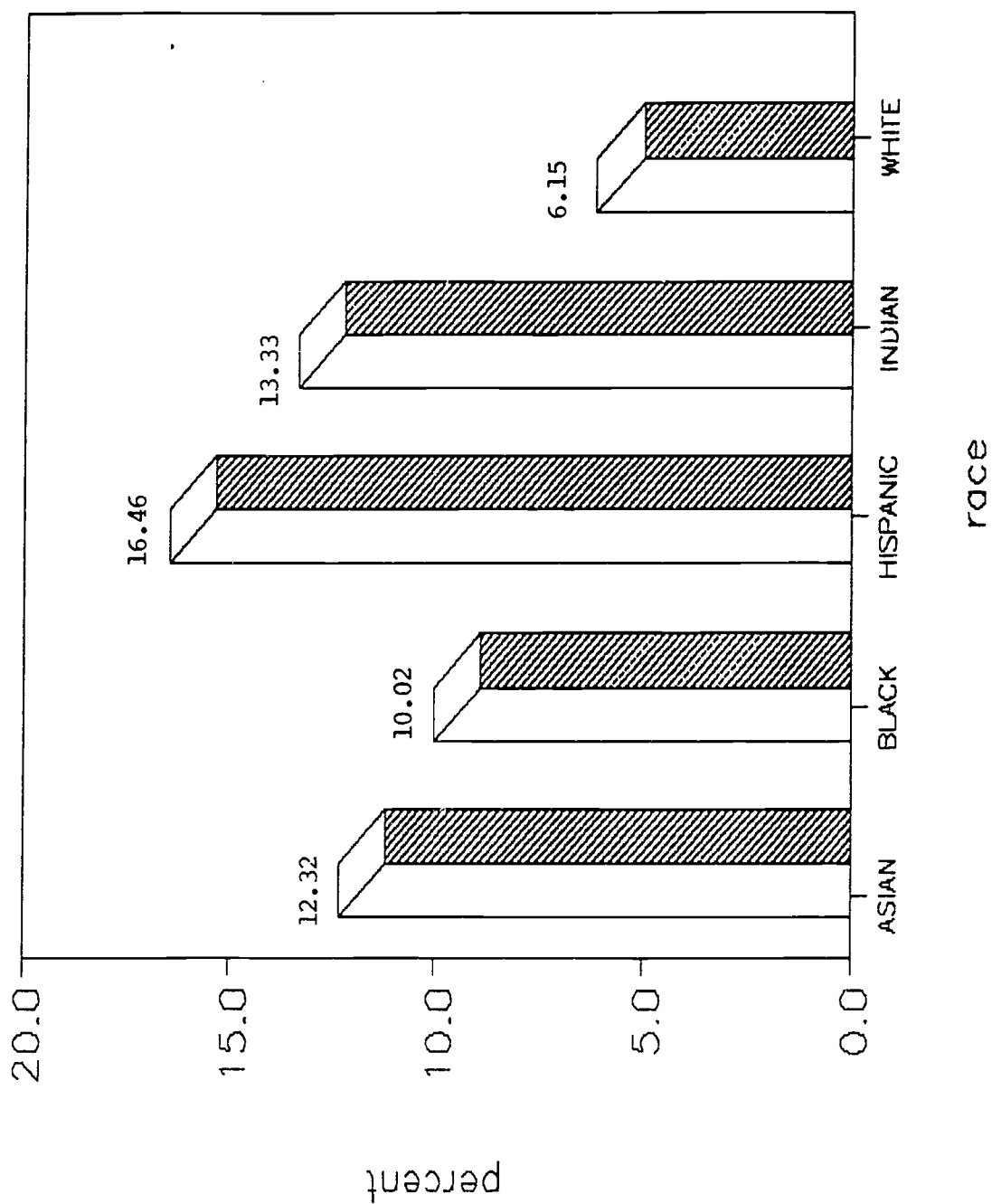
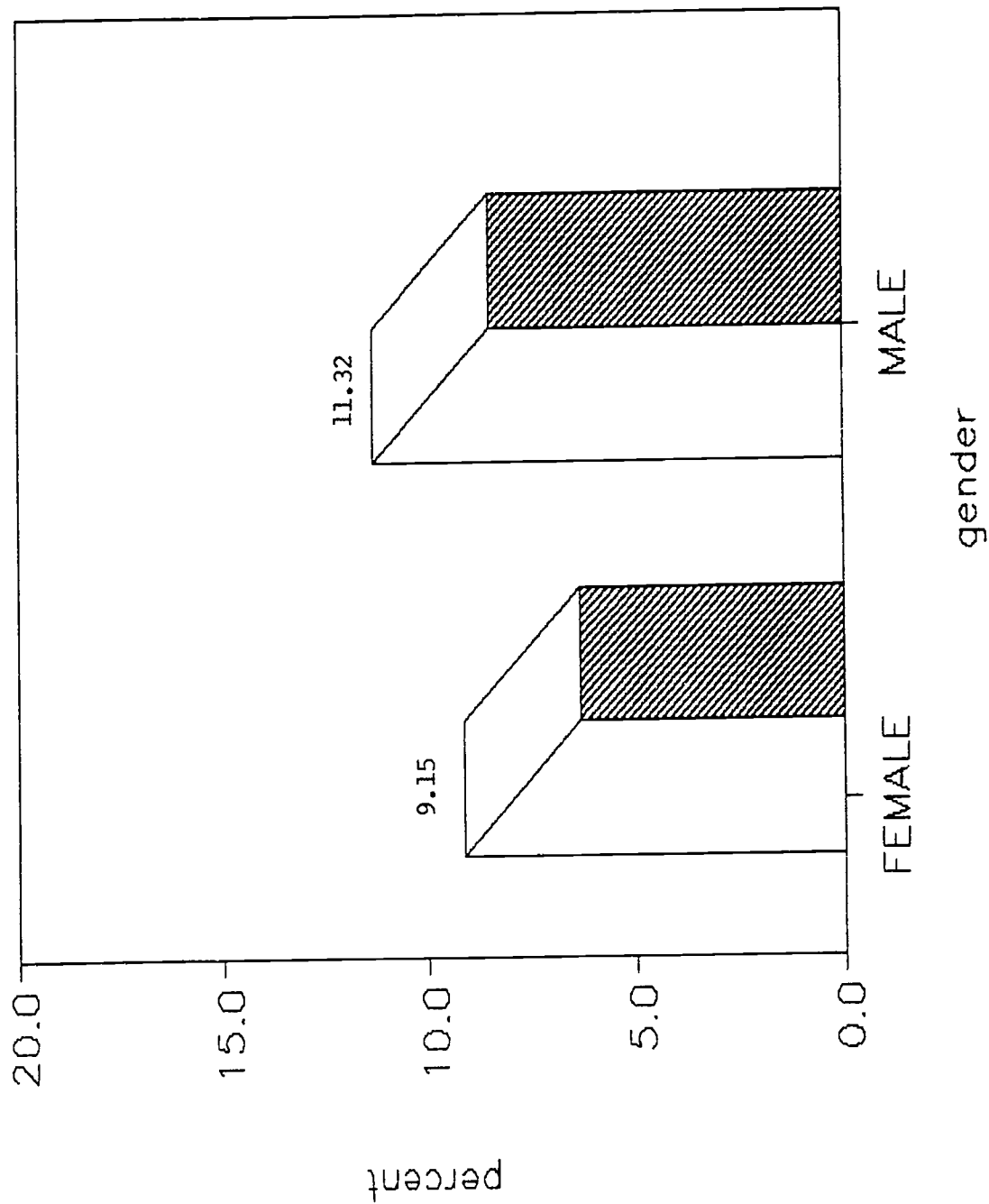


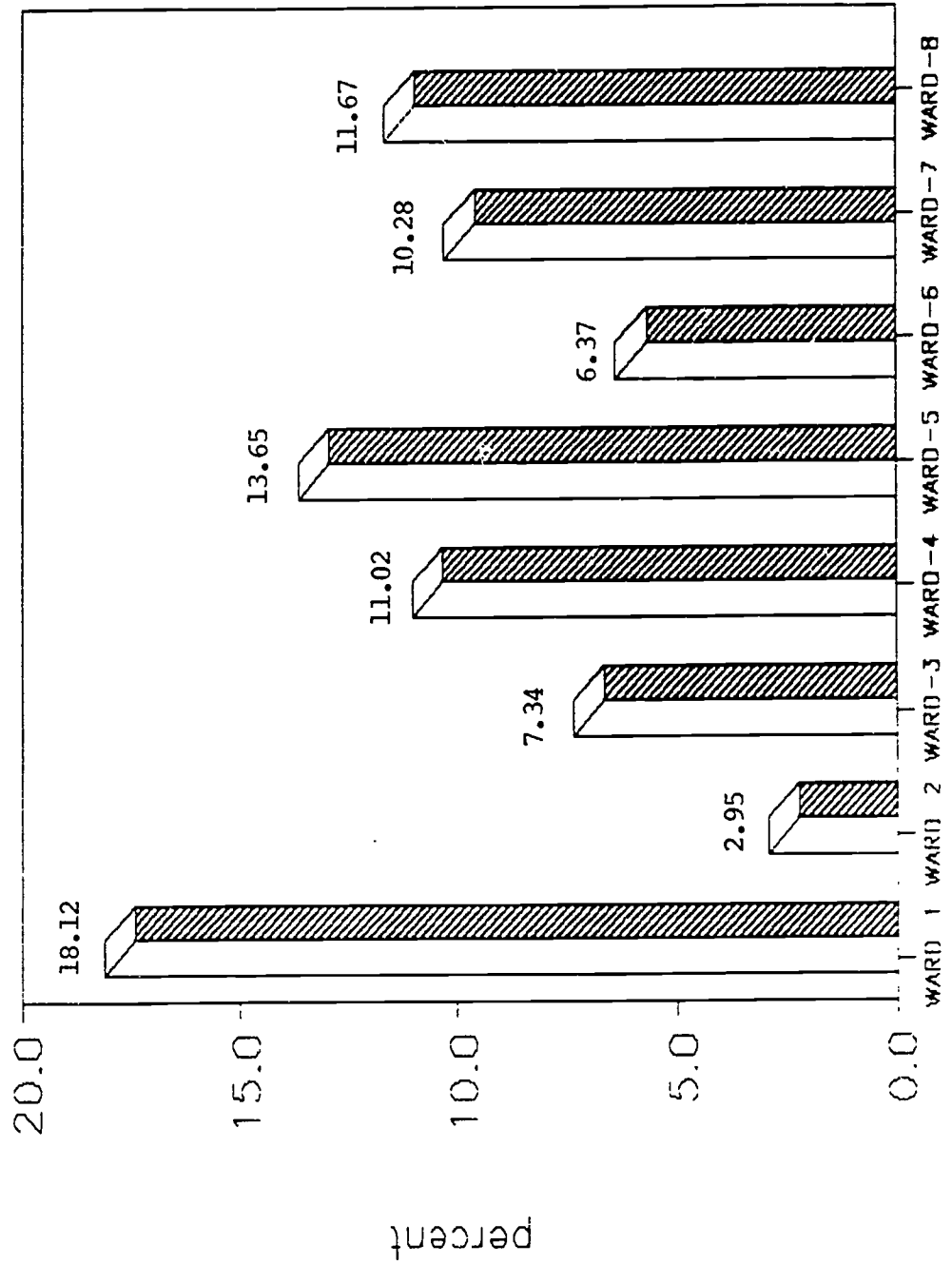
FIGURE 4
PERCENT OF DROPOUTS
FROM GENDER MEMBERSHIP
 (n = respective gender membership)



Dropout and Migration

by Ward

FIGURE 5
PERCENT OF DROPOUTS
FROM WARD MEMBERSHIP
 (n = respective ward membership)



D.C. Public Schools Leaver Statistics

WARD 1

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	Un	TOTAL
* Dropouts	37	45	86	181	110	41	19	519
Court Ordered Withdrawals	5	6	1	0	0	0	0	12
Death or Illness	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
Trf to DCPS Adult Ed Ctr	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	4
Trf to D.C. Private Sch	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	6
Trf Out-of-City	7	19	17	12	8	5	0	68
TOTAL	50	74	107	197	118	46	20	612

Dropout Rate: $\frac{519}{2864} = .1812 \times 100 = 18.12$
(membership)

Out-Migration Rate: $\frac{68}{2864} = .0237 \times 100 = 2.37$
(trf out-of-city)

* 109 students left with the explanation of transferring to another D.C. Public School but did not follow through

D.C. Public Schools Leaver Statistics

WARD 2

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	Un	TOTAL
* Dropouts	26	23	25	5	8	1	0	88
Court Ordered Withdrawals	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Death or Illness	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Trf to DCPS Adult Ed Ctr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trf to D.C. Private Sch	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	6
Trf Out-of-City	40	47	29	1	2	0	0	119
TOTAL	79	73	56	6	10	1	0	216

$$\text{Dropout Rate: } \frac{88}{2976} = .0295 \times 100 = 2.95 \text{ (membership)}$$
$$\text{Out-Migration Rate: } \frac{119}{2976} = .0399 \times 100 = 3.99$$

(trf out-of-city)

* 58 students left with the explanation of transferring to another D.C. Public School but did not follow through

D.C. Public Schools Leaver Statistics

WARD 3

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	Un	TOTAL
* Dropouts	2	6	30	85	53	28	5	209
Court Ordered Withdrawals	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	5
Death or Illness	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Trf to DCPS Adult Ed Ctr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trf to D.C. Private Sch	1	2	7	5	1	1	0	17
Trf Out-of-City	11	15	11	22	9	3	0	71
TOTAL	15	24	48	112	66	33	5	303

Dropout Rate: $\frac{209}{2844} = .0734 \times 100 = 7.34$
(membership)

Out-Migration Rate: $\frac{71}{2844} = .0239 \times 100 = 2.49$
(trf out-of-city)

* 27 students left with the explanation of transferring to another D.C. Public School but did not follow through

D.C. Public Schools Leaver Statistics

WARD 4

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	Un	TOTAL
* Dropouts	36	38	49	174	99	50	11	457
Court Ordered Withdrawals	1	1	5	1	1	1	0	10
Death or Illness	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	4
Trf to DCPS Adult Ed Ctr	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Trf to D.C. Private Sch	1	1	2	1	0	0	4	9
Trf Out-of-City	18	36	19	33	24	10	4	144
TOTAL	56	78	75	210	125	61	20	625

Dropout Rate: $\frac{457}{4144} = .1102 \times 100 = 11.02$
(membership)

Out-Migration Rate: $\frac{144}{4144} = .0347 \times 100 = 3.47$
(trf out-of-city)

* 113 students left with the explanation of transferring to another D.C. Public School but did not follow through

D.C. Public Schools Leaver Statistics

WARD 5

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	Un	TOTAL
<hr/>								
* Dropouts	20	29	95	285	211	135	138	913
Court Ordered Withdrawals	0	3	7	5	9	6	0	30
Death or Illness	0	0	1	0	3	2	0	6
Trf to DCPS Adult Ed Ctr	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Trf to D.C. Private Sch	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	5
Trf Out-of-City	12	25	16	29	12	7	0	101
TOTAL	33	58	119	321	237	150	138	1056

Dropout Rate: $\frac{913}{6687}$ (membership) $= .1365 \times 100 = 13.65$

$$\text{Out-Migration Rate: } \frac{101}{6687} = .0151 \times 100 = 1.51$$

(trf out-of-city)

* 185 students left with the explanation of transferring to another D.C. Public School but did not follow through

D.C. Public Schools Leaver Statistics

WARD 6

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	Un	TOTAL
* Dropouts	13	40	60	114	56	35	12	330
Court Ordered Withdrawals	1	3	3	3	1	2	2	15
Death or Illness	0	1	0	1	3	3	5	13
Trf to DCPS Adult Ed Ctr	0	0	9	20	2	1	0	32
Trf to D.C. Private Sch	0	0	2	3	0	1	1	7
Trf Out-of-City	13	24	33	24	26	11	9	140
TOTAL	27	68	107	165	88	53	29	537

Dropout Rate: $\frac{330}{5175} = .0637 \times 100 = 6.37$
(membership)

Out-Migration Rate: $\frac{140}{5175} = .0270 \times 100 = 2.70$
(trf out-of-city)

* 159 students left with the explanation of transferring to another D.C. Public School but did not follow through

D.C. Public Schools Leaver Statistics

WARD 7

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	Un	TOTAL
* Dropouts	58	77	45	75	106	29	15	405
Court Ordered Withdrawals	1	6	6	0	0	0	0	13
Death or Illness	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
Trf to DCPS Adult Ed Ctr	1	3	1	0	0	0	1	6
Trf to D.C. Private Sch	2	1	1	0	0	0	3	7
Trf Out-of-City	17	41	36	10	17	11	2	134
TOTAL	79	129	89	85	124	41	21	568

Dropout Rate: $\frac{405}{3936} = .1028 \times 100 = 10.28$
(membership)

$$\text{Out-Migration Rate: } \frac{134}{3936} = .0340 \times 100 = 3.40$$

(trf out-of-city)

* 97 students left with the explanation of transferring to another D.C. Public School but did not follow through

D.C. Public Schools Leaver Statistics

WARD 8

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	Un	TOTAL
* Dropouts	23	58	44	156	75	37	41	434
Court Ordered Withdrawals	2	1	2	6	1	0	1	13
Death or Illness	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Trf to DCPS Adult Ed Ctr	0	3	1	2	6	3	0	15
Trf to D.C. Private Sch	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	5
Trf Out-of-City	13	27	27	17	18	5	3	110
TOTAL	39	94	74	181	100	45	45	578

$$\text{Dropout Rate: } \frac{434}{3716} (\text{membership}) = .1167 \times 100 = 11.67$$
$$\text{Out-Migration Rate: } \frac{110}{3716} = .0296 \times 100 = 2.96$$

(trf out-of-city)

* 69 students left with the explanation of transferring to another D.C. Public School but did not follow through

Appendix

D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOL DROPOUT DEFINITION

" A DROPOUT IS A STUDENT WHO LEAVES SCHOOL PRIOR TO GRADUATION OR COMPLETION OF A FORMAL HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION OR LEGAL EQUIVALENT, AND WHO DOES NOT ENTER ANOTHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE EDUCATION INSTITUTION OR RECOGNIZED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM WITHIN 45 CONSECUTIVE SCHOOL DAYS"

NOTE: Definition developed by the Council of Great City Schools and adopted by the D. C. Board of Education on May 21, 1986

**D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITH
SECONDARY STUDENTS**

Elementary/Middle Schools

Brookland Elementary
Fletcher Johnson Educ. Ctr.
Fort Lincoln Elementary
Hardy Middle
Harris, P.R. Educ. Ctr.
Merritt Elementary
River Terrace Commun. Sch.
Stuart-Hobson Middle
Takoma Elementary
West Elementary
Winston Elementary

Junior High Schools

Backus Junior High
Browne Junior High
Deal Junior High
Douglass Junior High
Eliot Junior High
Evans Junior High
Francis Junior
Garnet-Patterson Junior High
Hamilton Junior High
Hart Junior High
Hine Junior High
Jefferson Junior High
Johnson Junior High
Kramer Junior High
Langley Junior High
Lincoln Junior High
MacFarland Junior High
Miller Junior High
Paul Junior High
Rabaut Junior High
Roper Junior High
Shaw Junior High
Sousa Junior High
Taft Junior High
Terrell Junior High
Woodson, C.G. Junior High

Senior High Schools

Anacostia Senior High
Ballou Senior High
Banneker Senior High
Bell Multicultural High
Cardoza Senior High
Coolidge Senior High
Dunbar Senior High
Eastern Senior High
Ellington Senior High
McKinley Senior High
Phelps Senior High
Roosevelt Senior High
School W/O Walls Sr. High
Spingarn Senior High
Wilson Senior High
Woodson, H.D. Senior High

Alternative Schools

D.C. Street Academy
Washington-Dix St. Academy
Senate Page School
Spingarn S.T.A.Y.

Special Education Centers

Buchanan Secondary L/C
Mamie D. Lee L/C
Sharpe Health L/C

D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS LISTING BY WARD

WARD 1

Banneker Senior High
Bell Multicultural High
Cardoza Senior High
Garnet-Patterson Junior High
Lincoln Junior High

WARD 2

Francis Junior High
Jefferson Junior High
School W/O Walls Senior High
Shaw Junior High
Terrell Junior High

WARD 3

Deal Junior High
Ellington Senior High
Hardy Middle School
Wilson Senior High

WARD 4

Coolidge Senior High
MacFarland Junior High
Mamie D. Lee Spec. Educ. Ctr.
Paul Junior High
Rabaut Junior High
Roosevelt Senior High
Sharpe Health Spec. Educ. Ctr.
Takoma Middle School
West Elementary School

WARD 5

Backus Junior High
Brookland Elementary
Brown Junior High
D.C. Street Academy
Dunbar Senior High
Fort Lincoln Elementary
Hamilton Junior High
Langley Junior High
McKinley Senior High
Phelps Senior High
Spingarn Senior High
Spingarn S.T.A.Y.
Taft Junior High
Washington-Dix St. Academy

WARD 6

Anacostia Senior High
Buchanan Spec. Educ. Ctr.
Eastern Senior High
Eliot Junior High
Hine Junior High
Kramer Junior High
Senate Page High
Stuart-Hobson Middle

WARD 7

Evans Junior High
Fletcher-Johnson Educ. Ctr.
Merrit Elementary
Miller Junior High
River Terrace Elementary
Roper Junior High
Sousa Junior High
Winston Elementary
Woodson, C.G. Junior High
Woodson, H.D. Senior High

WARD 8

Ballou Senior High
Douglass Junior High
Harris, P.R. Educ. Ctr.
Hart Junior High
Johnson Junior High

**DROPOUTS RATES FOR A SAMPLE OF
URBAN AND SUBURBAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

<u>School District</u>	<u>Dropout Rate</u>	<u>Grade Levels</u>	<u>School Year(s)</u>
ATLANTA	21.0%	9-12	1989-90 (12 mos.)
BALTIMORE CITY	15.1%	9-12	1989-90 (12 mos.)
BALTIMORE CO.	18.8%	9-12	1989-90 (10 mos.)
CHICAGO	13.2%	9-12	1988-89 (12 mos.)
DADE COUNTY, FL.	23.9% *	9-12	1984-89
DETROIT	38.9% *	9-12	1985-89
LOS ANGELES	15.8%	10-12	1988-89 (10 mos.)
MEMPHIS	12.0%	6-12	1988-89 (9 mos.)
NEWARK	9.3%	9-12	1988-89 (10 mos.)
PHILADELPHIA	31.8% *	9-12	1985-89

School Districts Surrounding
the District of Columbia

ALEXANDRIA CITY	3.8%	7-12	1989-90 (12 mos.)
FAIRFAX CO.	2.6%	7-12	1989-90 (12 mos.)
MONTGOMERY CO.	2.9%	9-12	1989-90 (12 mos.)
PRINCE GEORGE CO.	3.6%	9-12	1989-90 (9 mos.)

* Percentages reflect longitudinal dropout rates as contrasted with annual dropout rates